# まっくらやみで君と

タカナシモリミチ

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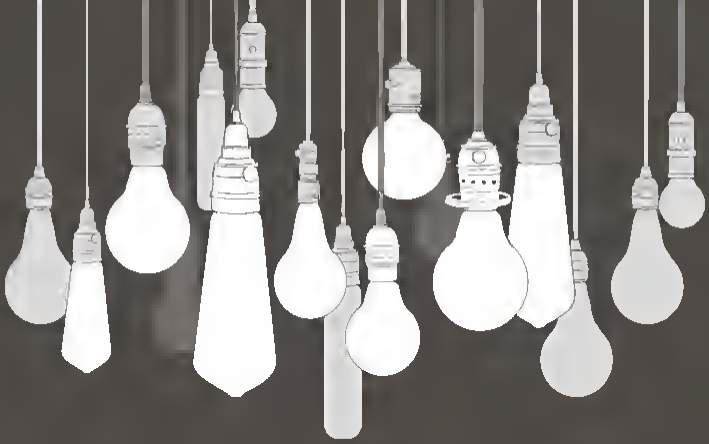

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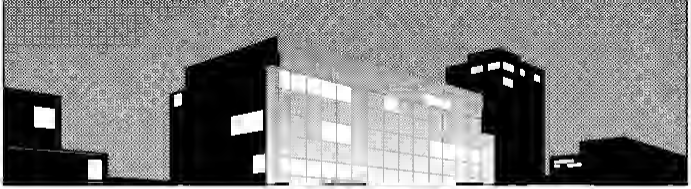


HUH? YOU'RE STILL HERE, TAKIMOTO-KUN?
Sniff

WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE LOST MY HOUSE KEYS.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KACHOU?
BEEP BEEP BEEP
SHOULD I HELP YOU FIND IT?

SHALL I HELP?
NO, I'M ALMOST FINISHED

CLICK
HELLO? OH, MIKA-CHAN?
YUP. HOLD ON A BIT LONGER.

I'M ALRIGHT, THANK YOU.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

I'M NO GOOD WITH HIM.

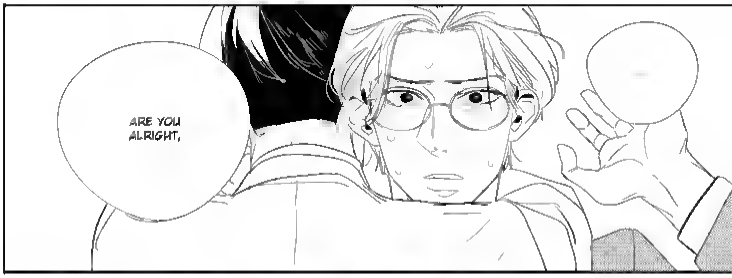
ZAP
WHA-
CRASH
HUH?
WHY ARE THE LIGHTS ON IN THE REFERENCE ROOM?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
pouring rain
WHY DID THE WEATHER SUDDENLY GET SO BAD?

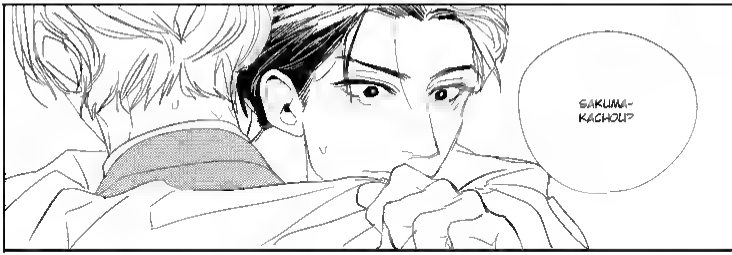
CLI-
-CK
clank
Ah-
Some-
one...
rustle
rustle
Man, that scared me, who was that? They sound so scared...
Jump
GYAHHH-
NO WAY, A BLACKOUT...?
IS IT COMING FROM THIS ROOM?
creak...
HELLO? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

UM, I HEARD A LOUD SOUND AND...
ARE YOU HURT SOME-WHERE?
tremble tremble
OH
YOUR PHONE...
TAP
HUG
WHAT...?
SQUEEZE
CLUNK

PLEASE LET ME GO...
sniff
hic
WAI-
What? What? What's happening? I'm being hugged?
Am I being hugged by a guy?
OKAY NOW.
tap
tap
EVERYTHING'S.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE
click
click
THIS COLOGNE
HM?

Just recently_
release
Smelled it,


ARE YOU ALRIGHT,


SAKUMA-KACHOU?

push

FIRST
NIGHT

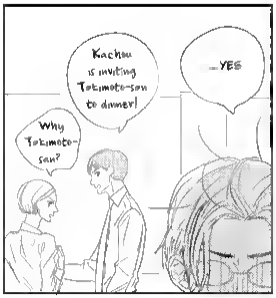
I was exhausted from working overtime
That's why I had such a weird dream.

...Is the dream I had.

BANG
Um...

GOO-
WOBBLE
GOOD WORK TODAY...

TAKIMOTO-KUN,
That was all just a weird dream.
He definitely didn't run into a wall
Sakuma-kachou doesn't cry because of a blackout, and he doesn't just hug me like that.


Kachou is inviting Takimoto-san to dinner!
Why Takimoto-san?
...YES

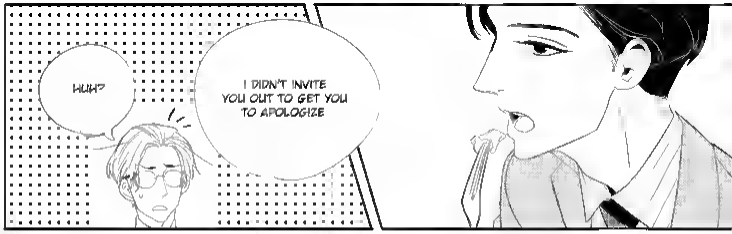
YES.
DO YOU HAVE TIME AFTER WORK?
UH...
SHALL WE GO GET SOME GOOD?

WHAT'S WITH THIS EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT.
NOT AT ALL...
ABOUT YESTERDAY,
I APOLOGIZE FOR SHOWING YOU SUCH AN EMBARRASSING STATE.

The usual, perfect Sakuma-kachou.
I'M ESPECIALLY BAD WITH DARK PLACES. SO I PANIC IN SITUATIONS LIKE LAST NIGHT

It's the usual kachou
I'M A SCAREDY-CAT

I'm really no good with this person...
I want to go home...
I DON'T PLAN ON TELLING ANYONE ANYTHING,
SO THERE'S REALLY NO NEED TO WORRY
PLEASE DON'T WORRY.
SO...
Clack


HUH?
I DIDN'T INVITE YOU OUT TO GET YOU TO APOLOGIZE

TAKIMOTO-KUN,
I WANT YOU TO SLEEP WITH ME TONIGHT

...What?

You saying...?
What are...
Sit
clunk

Wha-
CLANK

AND IN THE END, I COULDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP.
a thin body...
I CAN USUALLY SLEEP WELL WHEN I'M HOLDING A WOMAN,
BUT...
So soft and delicate..

I WAS SCARED AND ANXIOUS AND ALL I COULD THINK OF, WAS YOU
Hm? What?
...IT'S NOT RIGHT.
NO, NOTHING.

I- I didn't hold you!
You're the one who held me!
BECAUSE WHEN YOU HELD ME YESTERDAY I FELT SAFE FOR THE FIRST TIME
AND I REALIZED WHY I WAS INSECURE DEEP DOWN IN MY HEART
YOU CAN PROTECT ME FROM THE SCARY THINGS!
SO IF IT'S YOU
YOU'RE NOT A CHILD ANYMORE!
PROTECT YOUR OWN SELF!
TAKIMOTO-KUN!
Wha- What are you saying in such a loud voice!
BECAUSE OF YOU, WOMEN ARE NOT ENOUGH FOR ME ANYMORE!

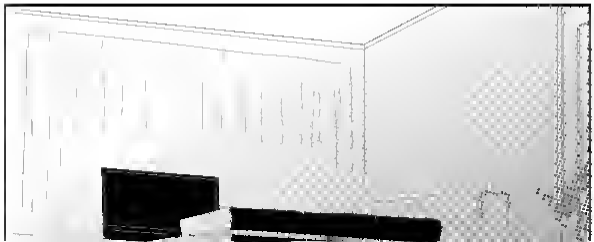
I'M REALLY TROUBLED HERE,
I WANT YOU TO HELP ME
BECAUSE YOU,
DON'T LIKE ME
OH- WHY DON'T YOU ASK KIRISHIMA? HE'LL GLADLY-
I WANT YOU.
I'M HAPPY IT WAS YOU THERE LAST NIGHT.
smack
WHA-?

I'M ALSO A SUBORDINATE WHO LOOKS UP TO YOU, YOU KNOW?
CLANK

SO IN YOUR CASE, THAT'S NO WORRY SINCE YOU DON'T LIKE ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I DIDN'T WANT A SUBORDINATE WHO LOOKS UP TO ME TO BE DISAPPOINTED.

I'm sorry,
AND I'M DISAPPOINTED NOW.
Could I get the wine list?
KACHOU?

...
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME WINE?

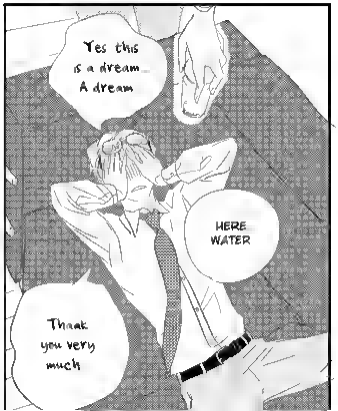


THIS WINE COSTS X HUNDERD DOLLARS!
Damn it... Using such an underhanded method.
OH, AND DON'T WORRY, I DON'T DRINK
DON'T WANT TO WASTE IT, SO DRINK LOTS!

DO YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?
WATER PLEASE...

BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE A REASON TO LIE EITHER.
THAT KACHOU!? I MEAN, HE'S NOT A GRADE SCHOOLER.
WHAT SO CAN HE REALY NOT SLEEP ALONE?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A BATH?
YES I DO


Yes this is a dream... A dream
HERE WATER
Thank you very much

?
PLEASE GO AHEAD. I'LL GO IN AFTER
NO WE'LL GO IN TOGETHER.

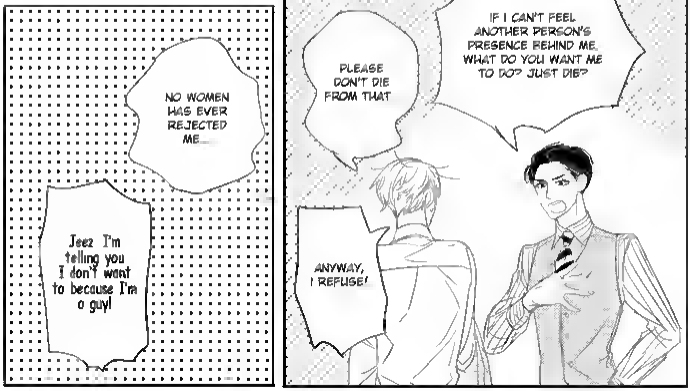
THEN LET'S GO IN.
Yeah
We have work tomorrow

HUH? WHY? WHY CAN'T YOU?
I'M SORRY. I DON'T BAT FOR THE SAME TEAM!
WHY?!
IT'S GROSS WITH TWO GUYS! ANYWAY, I'M LEAVING!

Why?!
I'm going home!
DASH

EXCUSE ME?

WAIT! IF I'M ALONE, I'M TOO SCARED TO WASH MY HAIR!


NO WOMEN HAS EVER REJECTED ME...
Jeez I'm telling you I don't want to because I'm a guy!
IF I CAN'T FEEL ANOTHER PERSON'S PRESENCE BEHIND ME, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? JUST DIE?
PLEASE DON'T DIE FROM THAT
ANYWAY, I REFUSE!

ZAA-
CAN'T BE HELPED...

YES I AM
ZAA-
TAKIMOTO-KUN ARE YOU STILL THERE?!
PLEASE HURRY UP

He's confident and is calm under pressure
He doesn't play favorites and is kind to everyone, and that feeling is reciprocated.
His one and only flaw, is how he has a different women every time
He's taking too long.
Seriously, what's with him?
Kachou is perfect
I'M TIRED...
I always wondered why I wasn't good with him,
But now I understand.
I HAD MY DEFENSE MECHANISM READY FOR TIMES LIKE THESE
IT DIDN'T HELP AT ALL...
TAKIMOTO-KUN! I THINK THERE'S A WEIRD NOISE, I'M SCARED!
SLI
DE

PLEASE HURRY UP AND GO TO SLEEP
WHY WON'T YOU TURN THIS WAY?
TAKIMOTO-KUN...
Not! Definitely not!
CAN WE TOUCH FEETS?
I'M SCARED IF MY LEGS ARE COLD. I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S GOING TO GRAB IT...
THAT'S EVEN WEIRDER.
sigh
fwump
HURRY UP AND SLEEP THEN LET GO, OKAY?
JUST THE PINKIE?
THEN, I WANT TO HOLD HANDS...
JUST THE PINKIE IS FINE, SO...

HOW?
YOU'RE SO KIND...
THANK YOU.

It's morning!
SWi
SH
chirp
chirp

morning!
My head hurts. In more than one way.
I thought my heart would stop the moment I woke up.

WHY ARE YOU SO EXCITED...
MORNINGS ARE GREAT! I WISH NIGHT WOULD NEVER COME!

DID YOU NOT LIKE IT?
WOMEN ENJOY IT SO I THOUGHT
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
YEAH
HUH?
YOU EVEN COOK?
WOW
OH NO,
IT LOOKS DELICIOUS THANK YOU!
relieved
STAB
Who are you...
THAT'S GREAT!

WHAT? WHY?!
BUT PLEASE FIND SOMEONE ELSE FOR TONIGHT.
"WHY"?

I WAS SWEPT ALONG LAST NIGHT,

THEN WHAT DO YOU...
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING
NO THANK YOU
URGH... I'LL REPAY YOU SOMEHOW! WOULD YOU LIKE MONEY?

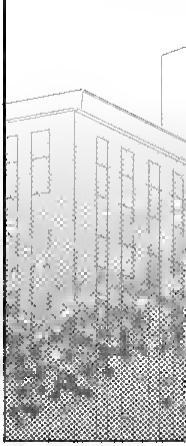
I'M STILL ANXIOUS WHEN I SLEEP WITH WOMEN.
AND I DON'T WANT TO RUIN THE IMAGE OF A KACHOU

....

ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD PICK UP A GUY?
IF IT'S YOU, YOU'LL BE A HIT WITH MEN, TOO
THEN YOU CAN ASK A STRANGER.
HUH?
I DIDN'T EVEN THINK OF THAT. THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
OF COURSE HE'D BE MAD WELL WITH THIS I'LL-
I GET IT!
ALRIGHT...
THANK YOU! I'LL GIVE THAT A TRY!

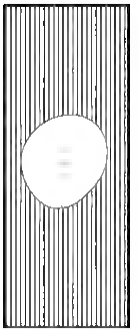
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK TODAY

THEN, I'LL BE GOING AHEAD...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK ODAY
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK TODAY



Don't tell me he's taking that joke seriously
DOES HE UNDERSTAND WHAT PICKING UP A GUY MEANS?
I MEANT IT AS A FINAL OPTION
HE'S A LITTLE... NO HE'S REALLY CRZY

JUMP
STAND



HE'S AN ADULT SO OF COURSE HE'D
NO NO

Sakuma-kachou
I'LL BE LEAVING FIRST!
Takimoto-kun?
HELLO? KACHOU? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
Oh, did you call because you were worried?
I'm fine
AAHH HHHH
That was way too fast! How popular is this guy?!
UH-
UM,
And is calling his friends since he says it should feel safer with more guys
He said he understands my situation
I found a partner
Wha-?!

CAFE

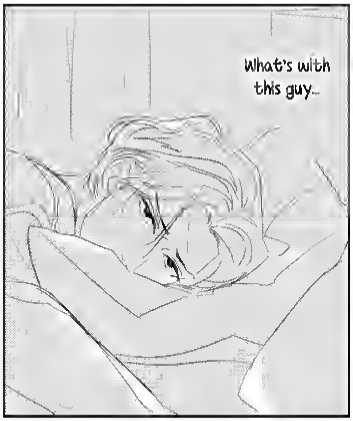
What?
PLEASE GET OUT OF THERE IMMEDIATELY!
IF THEY CATCH YOU, YOU HAVE TO SCREAM!
Oh- Okay

PANT
PANT
PANT
hahh
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

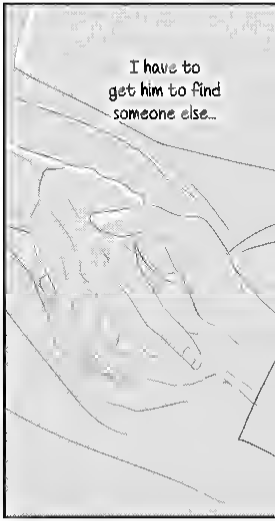
OH, TAKIMOTO-KUN!
...

YE- YES...
SAKUMA-KACHOU...

WHA- THEN WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO FOR TONIGHT?
THERE ARE A LOT OF DANGEROUS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD!
DON'T JUST FOLLOW AFTER ANYONE!
What?!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED, SO I'LL SLEEP WITH YOU TONIGHT...
JUST FOR TODAY, OKAY?
Thank you, Takimoto-kun!
Really?!


What's with this guy...

Zzz..
Zzz


I have to get him to find someone else...

I'LL BE LEAVING FIRST
GOOD WORK TODAY!

YOU DIDN'T NEED TO HURRY
I FEEL PRESSURED WHEN I'M BEING WAITED ON
Ahaha.

SAKUMA-SAN, SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT.
OH, GOOD WORK TODAY, THEN LET'S HEAD HOME.

Click

ZAA-

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR DINNER TOMORROW?
CURRY SOUNDS GREAT!
CURRY.

clack
clack
clack

flap

You are looking for my replacement, right?!
I AM! IT'S JUST

AHAHA, THAT MAKES ME HAPPY
I HATE MYSELF FOR GETTING USED TO THIS

YOU'D STAY WITH ME LIKE THIS, FOREVER...
I WISH,

CAN'T SEEM TO FIND SOMEONE BETTER THAN YOU.

THIS IS SOMETHING MY FRIEND EXPERIENCED IN REAL LIFE,

When he turned around, he saw blood-red eyes between the curtains,
Wait! Stop! Are you trying to tell me a scary story?!
Wahh- Wahhhh- I knew it!
An' his room is on the fifth floor...

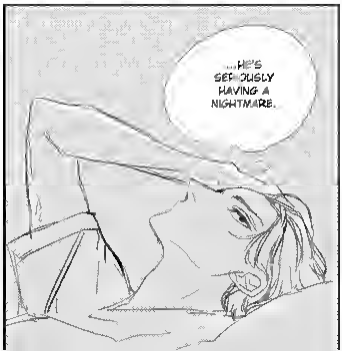
HM?
ONE NIGHT IN HIS ROOM, HE FELT A GAZE.

YOU'RE HORIBLE! IT'LL BE YOUR FAULT IF I HAVE A SCARY DREAM!
sniff
sniff
PLEASE DON'T HUG ME BECAUSE OF A NIGHTMARE LIKE LAST TIME. I'LL SERIOUSLY KICK YOU OFF THE BED
URGH...

I'll find one immediately!
Next morning, on his window, a bloody hand print was..
Stop! I hate you Takimoto-kun!

...
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE TOGETHER WITH ME, RIGHT? I'M SORRY.
flap

BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIKE ME RIGHT, TAKIMOTO-KUN?


...HE'S SERIOUSLY HAVING A NIGHTMARE.

Ngh...
Nn...

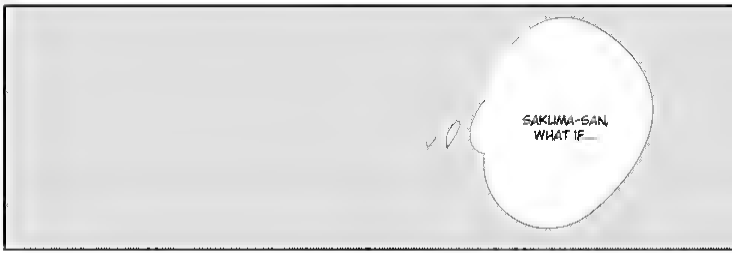
Sakuma-san just,

Doesn't want to let go of me because I'm useful to him.

So he tries to bind me to him in his own way.

Like the way he has been

creak




I misunderstand?